The Railways have been making vigorous efforts to improve the operating ratio by controlling expenditure and augmenting earnings. Some of the important measures being teken include:

(i) Measures to control expenditure by improving staff productivity, assets utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc.

(ii) For improving earnings, aggressive marketing with improve freight services and commercial incentives.

(iii) All efforts are being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

The Zonal Railways have also been asked to effect savings in Ordinary Working Expenses, which are spread over Demands for Grants 3 to 12 of the Railways, by around 900 crore in 2001-02. This works to around 3% of the total Ordinary Working Expenses. As of now there is no cut in the plan size of the Railways.

(d) In the year 2000-01, the actuals of the Ordinary Working Expenses, which represent mainly the maintenance and the operating costs of the Railways, are Rs 27,534 crore (Provisional) as against Rs. 27,815 crore in the Revised Estimates.

Representation on Board of Governors/KVs

*479. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no representation of employees or employees associations, either on Kendriya Vidyalayas or its Board of Governors at present;

(b) if so, the rational thereof;

(c) whether such a provision existed in early nineties; and

(d) if so, the circumstances and considerations which prompted Government to withdraw/cancel it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is no provision, in the Memoradum of Association and Rules of KVs in this regard.

(c) Under the earlier Rules, there was no specific provision providing for membership to the employees.

(d) It was felt that the number of members in these bodies should be fixed for smooth functioning. Even then, as a gesture of goodwill, Government had agreed to give representation to the teachers' associations on the General Body provided that the two associations agreed to a common nominee, against the category of 'eminent educationist'. The associations were addressed in this regard. Since a common candidate could not be agreed upon by them, the issue was discussed in the meetings of the Joint Consultative Machinery and it was recommended that representation of the teachers' associations on the General Body of the Sangathan may be considered on a rotational basis.

Deemed University Status to Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Management

*480. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently accorded the Status of 'Deemed to be University' to the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the factors that weighed in favour of according such a status;

(c) whether some State Governments, particularly in Southern Region like Andhra Pradesh have also recommended for according such a status to some Institutes of Information Technology and Management located in their States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, indicating their names and location; and

(e) by when the aforesaid status is likely to be accorded to them?